

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, in view of the amendments to claim 1, Applicant submits that no new drawing is necessary.

Also, the Examiner has objected to the title of the invention. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title in a manner believed to overcome the objection. The title should not be used to narrow the scope of the claims.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Arai et al. (US 6,873,081), Nishikawa et al. (US 6,252,323) and Daikoku et al. (JP 2002-136003).

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 recites that when the axial length of the stator iron core is L_c (m), and a theoretical angle of the first stage skew angle $\theta_r(^{\circ})$ is an electrical angle $\theta_t(^{\circ})$, the following expression is satisfied, $\theta_t = (360^{\circ}/\text{least common multiple of the number of stator magnetic poles and the number of rotor magnetic poles})/2 \dots (1)$ and $\theta_t < \theta_r < (700 \times 10^3 / L_c + \theta_t) \dots (2)$

The Examiner acknowledges that Daikoku and Nishikawa fail to disclose the above features, but contends that Arai does. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. Applicant

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submits that Arai fails to disclose the claimed features. Furthermore, the Examiner's position is not based on any specific teaching in Arai (i.e., the Examiner has not indicated where Arai is alleged to disclose the claimed features).

If the rejection is to be maintained, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to specifically indicate where Arai discloses the claimed features.

B. Claims 2-4

By this Amendment, Applicant has incorporated the features of claim 2 into claim 1, and therefore has canceled claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

In regard to claims 3 and 4, Applicant submits that such claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

In addition, claim 4 recites that a clearance L_{cg} is provided between the first stator block and the second stator block, and between the second stator block and the third stator block, such that an inequality $0 < L_{cg} < 2.2gm$ is satisfied, where gm is a gap between the stator and the rotor.

The Examiner maintains that element 13 of Figure 8 of Daikoku discloses the above clearance. However, element 13 is a magnet member similar to elements 16 and 17 as shown. Thus, element 13 does not disclose any sort of clearance between stator blocks. Further, even if element 13 was actually formed as a clearance, rather than a magnet member, there is no teaching regarding the dimension of element 13, nor a teaching regarding a gap between the stator and rotor, such that the Examiner can summarily conclude that the claimed inequality is satisfied. The Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of obviousness in this regard. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 4 is patentable for this additional reason.

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III. Newly Added Claim

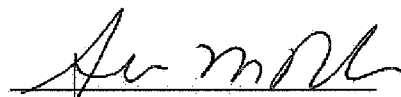
Applicant has added claim 5 to provide more varied protection of the present invention.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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